

What is claimed is:

1. A printing system, comprising:

a service server system from which data is downloaded  
and further comprising:

a) a means for acquiring information to specify a  
printer client, requesting an access to said service  
server system, from said printer client; and

b) a means for specifying abstract data, allowed  
to be transmitted to said printer client, in  
accordance with a copyright protection level; and  
said printer client for downloading said abstract data  
and conducting image output in accordance with said abstract  
data.

2. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said printer  
client includes a protection means for protecting said  
abstract data, in a data transmission path to conduct image  
output, against outside access.

3. The printing system of claim 2, wherein said printer  
client includes:

a decrypting means for decrypting said abstract data;  
and

an output means for conducting image output in  
accordance with said abstract data;

wherein said protection means protects said abstract  
data, in said data transmission path from said decrypting  
means to said output means, against outside access.

4. The printing system of claim 3, wherein said output means  
is an image forming means for forming an image on a recording  
medium.

5. The printing system of claim 3, wherein said output means  
is an image displaying means for displaying an image.

6. The printing system of claim 2, wherein said protection  
means is a physical cover member.

7. The printing system of claim 2, wherein said protection  
means is a filter program software.

8. The printing system of claim 2, wherein said protection means is a combination of a physical cover member and a filter program software.

9. The printing system of claim 2, comprising:

a comparison table for recording said copy right protection level of said abstract data and a copy right protection level of said printer client in relation to each other; and

a selection means for selecting said abstract data to be sent to said printer client in accordance with said copy right protection level of said printer client by looking up said comparison table for said copy right protection level of said abstract data.

10. The printing system of claim 9, wherein said copy right protection level of said printer client in said comparison table is set in different levels in accordance with said protection means of said printer client.

11. The printing system of claim 9, wherein said copy right protection level of said abstract data in said comparison

table is set in different levels in accordance with difficulty of decryption of said abstract data.

12. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said service server system comprises an encrypting means for encrypting said abstract data so as to provide encrypted abstract data and said printer client downloads said encrypted abstract data.

13. The printing system of claim 12, wherein said printer client comprises a decrypting means for decrypting said encrypted abstract data, downloaded from said service server system.

14. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said service server system executes a digital signature with an encryption key, uniquely assigned to said printer client, when said printer client performs an access to said service server system.

15. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said service server system executes a digital signature with an encryption

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key of an open key encryption method when said printer client performs an access to said service server system.

16. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said printer client executes a digital signature with an encryption key, uniquely assigned to said printer client, when said printer client performs an access to said service server system.

17. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said service server system comprises a memory means for storing a plurality of preformed abstract data and specifies said abstract data by selecting it from said plurality of performed abstract data.

18. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said service server system comprises a memory means for storing plurality of abstract data, each of which is preformed in correspondence with respective copyright protection level, and specifies said abstract data by selecting it from said plurality of abstract data.

19. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said service server system comprises a generating means for generating

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abstract data, corresponding to a copy right protection level for sending said abstract data to said printer client, so that said service server system specifies said abstract data.

20. The printing system of claim 1, wherein said printer client comprises a search requesting means for generating a search request to said service server system and said service server system performs search for said abstract data in response to said search request by said search requesting means.

21. A printing system, comprising:

a service server system from which data is downloaded and further comprising:

a) a means for certifying a login request from a printer client;

b) a means for specifying abstract data, allowed to be transmitted to said printer client, in accordance with a copyright protection level of said printer client; and

said printer client for conducting image output in accordance with said data and further comprising;

- a) a means for generating a login request to said service server system;
- b) a means for specifying desired abstract data and for notifying download request of said desired abstract data to said service server system;
- c) a means for downloading transmission form data, generated by an encryption process based on said desired abstract data, from said service server system; and
- d) a means for decrypting said transmission form data and conducts image output of said desired abstract data.

22. The printing system of claim 21, wherein said service server system comprises a memory means for storing a plurality of preformed abstract data and specifies said abstract data by selecting it from said plurality of performed abstract data.

23. The printing system of claim 21, wherein said service server system comprises a memory means for storing plurality of abstract data, each of which is preformed in correspondence with respective copyright protection level,

and specifies said abstract data by selecting it from said plurality of abstract data.

24. The printing system of claim 21, wherein said service server system comprises a generating means for generating abstract data, corresponding to a copy right protection level for sending said abstract data to said printer client, so that said service server system specifies said abstract data.

25. A printer client for conducting image output in accordance with data, downloaded from a service server system, further comprising;

    a means for generating a login request to said service server system;

    a means for specifying desired abstract data and for notifying download request of said desired abstract data to said service server system;

    a means for downloading transmission from data, generated by an encryption processing based on said desired abstract data, from said service server system; and

    a means for decrypting said transmission from data and conducts image output of said desired abstract data.

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26. A service server system from which data is downloaded and further comprising:

a means for certifying a login request from a printer client;

a means for specifying abstract data, allowed to be transmitted to said printer client, in accordance with a copyright protection level of said printer client; and

a means for controlling said printer client so as to download transmission form data, generated by an encryption process based on said abstract data.

27. The service server system of claim 26, wherein said service server system comprises a memory means for storing a plurality of preformed abstract data and specifies said abstract data by selecting it from said plurality of performed abstract data.

28. The service server system of claim 26, wherein said service server system comprises a memory means for storing plurality of abstract data, each of which is preformed in correspondence with respective copyright protection level, and specifies said abstract data by selecting it from said plurality of abstract data.

29. The service server system of claim 26, wherein said service server system comprises a generating means for generating abstract data, corresponding to a copy right protection level for sending said abstract data to said printer client, so that said service server system specifies said abstract data.

30. A printing system, comprising:

a printer client for conducting image output in accordance with data, downloaded from a service server system, and further comprising:

a) a decrypting means for decrypting encrypted abstract data so as to obtain abstract data;

b) an outputting means for conducting image output of said abstract data; and

c) a protecting means for protecting said abstract data in a transmission path, from said decrypting means to said outputting means, against outside access;

said service server system from which said data is downloaded and further comprising:

a) a comparison table in which a copyright protection level of said printer client, established stepwise in accordance with said protecting means, is stored in relation to a copyright protection level of said abstract data, established stepwise in accordance with difficulty of decryption of said abstract data;

b) a specifying means for specifying said abstract data, to be transmitted to said printer client, by referring said comparison table for said abstract data in accordance with said copyright protection level of said printer client; and

c) an encrypting means for encrypting said abstract data so as to generate said encrypted abstract data;

wherein said service server system obtains information for specifying said printer client from said printer client requesting access to said service server system so as to specify and encrypt said abstract data; and said printer client downloads said abstract data, specified and encrypted by said service server system, so as to conduct decryption and image output of said abstract data.

31. The printing system of claim 30, wherein said service server system comprises a memory means for storing a plurality of preformed abstract data and specifies said abstract data by selecting it from said plurality of performed abstract data.

32. The printing system of claim 30, wherein said service server system comprises a memory means for storing plurality of abstract data, each of which is preformed in correspondence with respective copyright protection level, and specifies said abstract data by selecting it from said plurality of abstract data.

33. The printing system of claim 30, wherein said service server system comprises a generating means for generating abstract data, corresponding to a copy right protection level for sending said abstract data to said printer client, so that said service server system specifies said abstract data.

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